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***NEWS From:***

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**Congressman Mike Honda**

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FIFTEENTH DISTRICT - CALIFORNIA

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**Rep. Honda Disagrees With Bush Iraq Policy, But Urges  
Americans to Support Our Troops**

WASHINGTON, March 20, 2003 — Rep. Mike Honda (D-San Jose) released the following statement regarding the conflict in Iraq:

“The President laid down a final gauntlet for Saddam Hussein, and Hussein chose to remain in power, and brace his country for the military attack that began last night.

“I vehemently disagree with the President's decision to abandon a diplomatic solution to disarming Hussein, as I feel that not all options were exhausted.

“As an American, I stand united with all members of Congress behind the men and women of our armed services. These courageous Americans are putting their lives on the line in order to serve our country. It is imperative that they know we support them on the homefront, and that we pray that they succeed swiftly in their mission and return home safely.

“Regardless of our personal views on the need for U.S.-led military intervention, I urge all Americans to support our troops, and to treat them with honor and respect upon their return. I have talked to veterans of many wars, and it is clear that not all of our veterans were treated with respect and dignity when they came home.

“It is clear that President Bush has strained relationships with many of our allies in the world. In the aftermath of our eventual success in ousting Hussein, it will be more important than ever to reestablish our ties with the international community. I urge the President to work with the U.N. and our allies on the eventual rebuilding of Iraq, bring peace and stability to the Middle East, and continue our war against Osama bin Laden and terror.”

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